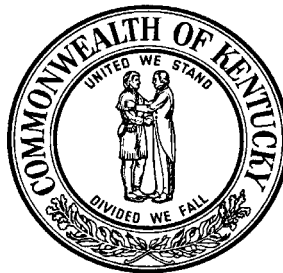


**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE
KNOTT COUNTY
CLERK**

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2004**



**CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE KNOTT COUNTY CLERK

**For The Year Ended
December 31, 2004**

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the Knott County Clerk's audit for the year ended December 31, 2004. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement presents fairly in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

Financial Condition:

Excess fees decreased by \$12,734 from the prior year, resulting in excess fees of \$755 as of December 31, 2004. Revenues decreased by \$185,646 from the prior year and expenditures decreased by \$174,758.

Report Comments:

- The County Clerk Should Require The Depository Institution To Pledge Or Provide Sufficient Collateral And Enter Into A Written Agreement To Protect Deposits
- The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

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CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Randy Thompson, Knott County Judge/Executive
Honorable Kenneth Gayheart, Knott County Clerk
Members of the Knott County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the County Clerk of Knott County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2004. This financial statement is the responsibility of the County Clerk. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the County Clerk's office prepares the financial statement on a regulatory basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the revenues, expenditures, and excess fees of the County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2004, in conformity with the regulatory basis of accounting.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated September 22, 2005 on our consideration of Knott County, Kentucky's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.



The Honorable Randy Thompson, Knott County Judge/Executive
Honorable Kenneth Gayheart, Knott County Clerk
Members of the Knott County Fiscal Court

Based on the results of our audit, we have presented the accompanying comments and recommendations, included herein, which discusses the following report comments:

- The County Clerk Should Require The Depository Institution To Pledge Or Provide Sufficient Collateral And Enter Into A Written Agreement To Protect Deposits
- The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the County Clerk and Fiscal Court of Knott County, Kentucky, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
September 22, 2005

KNOTT COUNTY
KENNITH GAYHEART, COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2004

Revenues

State Fees For Services	\$	1,638	
Fiscal Court			27,464
Licenses and Taxes:			
Motor Vehicle-			
Licenses and Transfers	\$	536,728	
Usage Tax		936,366	
Tangible Personal Property Tax		851,996	
Other-			
Fish and Game		9,448	
Marriage		3,579	
Deed Transfer Tax		10,116	
Delinquent Tax		112,306	2,460,539
Fees Collected for Services:			
Recordings-			
Deeds, Easements, and Contracts	\$	14,332	
Real Estate Mortgages		17,900	
Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements		57,257	
Mortgage Releases		5,867	
Affidavit of Descent		1,360	
Articles of Incorporation		233	
Wills		677	
Administrative Bonds		588	
Notary Bonds		819	
Lis Pending		151	
Court Orders		778	
Leases		5,084	
Miscellaneous		9,639	\$ 114,685
Interest Earned			433
Total Revenues	\$		2,604,759

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

KNOTT COUNTY
 KENNITH GAYHEART, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2004
 (Continued)

Expenditures

Payments to State:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers	\$ 449,389
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Usage Tax	904,575
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Tangible Personal Property Tax	366,527
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Licenses and Taxes -

Fish and Game License	8,962
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Delinquent Tax	17,730
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Legal Process Tax	11,976
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Payments to Fiscal Court:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	91,598
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Delinquent Tax	10,272
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Deed Transfer Tax	9,585
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Payments to Other Districts:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	359,788
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Delinquent Tax	<u>57,317</u>	\$ 2,287,719
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Payments to Sheriff	2,980
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Payments to County Attorney	14,842
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Operating Expenditures:

Personnel Services-

Deputies' Salaries	\$ 158,879
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Employee Benefits-

Employer's Share Social Security	16,322
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Employer's Share Retirement	18,239
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Contracted Services-

Advertising	3,225
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Printing and Binding	8,176
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Materials and Supplies-

Office Supplies	7,168
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Other Charges-

Conventions and Travel	3,936
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Refunds	6,985
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Bank Charges	66
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Miscellaneous	2,159
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The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

KNOTT COUNTY
 KENNITH GAYHEART, COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND EXCESS FEES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2004
 (Continued)

Expenditures (Continued)

Operating Expenditures: (Continued)

Dues	\$	650	
Postage		1,013	<u>\$ 226,818</u>
Total Expenditures			<u>\$ 2,532,359</u>
Net Revenues			\$ 72,400
Less: Statutory Maximum			<u>64,952</u>
Excess Fees			\$ 7,448
Less: Expense Allowance	\$	3,600	
Training Incentive Benefit		<u>3,093</u>	<u>6,693</u>
Excess Fees Due County for 2004			\$ 755
Payment to Fiscal Court - March 15, 2005			<u>192</u>
Balance Due Fiscal Court at Completion of Audit			<u><u>\$ 563</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

KNOTT COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 2004

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of revenues over expenditures to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

KRS 64.820 directs the fiscal court to collect any amount, including excess fees, due from the County Clerk as determined by the audit. KRS 64.152 requires the County Clerk to settle excess fees with the fiscal court by March 15 each year.

The financial statement has been prepared on a regulatory basis of accounting, which demonstrates compliance with the laws of Kentucky and is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under this regulatory basis of accounting, revenues and expenditures are generally recognized when cash is received or disbursed with the exception of accrual of the following items (not all-inclusive), at December 31, that may be included in the excess fees calculation:

- Interest receivable
- Collection on accounts due from others for 2004 services
- Reimbursements for 2004 activities
- Payments due other governmental entities for December tax and fee collections and payroll
- Payments due vendors for goods or services provided in 2004

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the County Clerk's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

KNOTT COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 2004
(Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System

The county officials and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that covers all eligible full-time employees and provides for retirement, disability, and death benefits to plan members.

Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute. Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5.0 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 7.34 percent for the first six months and 8.48 percent for the last six months of the year.

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65.

Historical trend information pertaining to CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report which is a matter of public record. This report may be obtained by writing the Kentucky Retirement Systems, 1260 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-6124, or by telephone at (502) 564-4646.

Note 3. Deposits

The County Clerk maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the County Clerk and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution. As of December 31, 2004, the bank balances were fully insured or collateralized at a 100% level with collateral of pledged securities held by the County Clerk's agent in the County Clerk's name. However, as of April 7, 2004, the collateral and FDIC insurance together did not equal or exceed the amount on deposit, leaving \$82,817 of public funds uninsured and unsecured. In addition, the County Clerk did not have a written agreement with the depository institution securing the County Clerk's interest in the collateral.

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COMMENTS AND RECOMMENATIONS

KNOTT COUNTY
KENNITH GAYHEART, COUNTY CLERK
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

For The Year Ended December 31, 2004

STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS:

The County Clerk Should Require The Depository Institution To Pledge Or Provide Sufficient Collateral And Enter Into A Written Agreement To Protect Deposits

On April 7, 2004, \$82,817 of the County Clerk's deposits of public funds were uninsured and unsecured. According to KRS 66.480(1)(d) and KRS 41.240(4), financial institutions maintaining deposits of public funds are required to pledge securities or provide surety bonds as collateral to secure these deposits if the amounts on deposit exceed the \$100,000 amount of insurance coverage provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). The County Clerk should require the depository institution to pledge or provide collateral in an amount sufficient to secure deposits of public funds at all times. We also recommend the County Clerk enter into a written agreement with the depository institution to secure the County Clerk's interest in the collateral pledged or provided by the depository institution. According to federal law, 12 U.S.C.A. § 1823(e), this agreement, in order to be recognized as valid by the FDIC, should be (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

County Clerk Kenneth Gayheart's Response: None.

INTERNAL CONTROL - REPORTABLE CONDITION:

Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

The County Clerk's office lacked an adequate segregation of duties. This occurs when someone has custody over assets and the responsibility of recording financial transactions. This condition could have adversely affected the County Clerk's ability to record, process, summarize, and report accurate financial information. We recommend the County Clerk implement the following compensating controls that would help offset the lack of segregation of duties:

- Cash recounted and deposited by the County Clerk
- Reconciliation of reports to source documents and receipts and disbursements ledgers by the County Clerk
- All disbursement checks are to be signed by two people and one must be the County Clerk
- The County Clerk examines payroll checks prepared by an employee and distributes checks to employees
- All disbursement checks prepared by an employee are examined by the County Clerk for proper documentation
- The County Clerk mails disbursements
- The County Clerk or someone independent of the County Clerk's office prepares or reviews the bank reconciliation

County Clerk Kenneth Gayheart's Response: None.

KNOTT COUNTY
KENNITH GAYHEART, COUNTY CLERK
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2004
(Continued)

PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS:

- The County Clerk Should Require The Depository Institution To Pledge Or Provide Sufficient Collateral To Protect Deposits
- Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

The above comments were not corrected and are discussed on the prior page.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND
ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



CRIT LUALLEN
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Randy Thompson, Knott County Judge/Executive
Honorable Kenneth Gayheart, Knott County Clerk
Members of the Knott County Fiscal Court

**Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards**

We have audited the statement of revenues, expenditures, and excess fees - regulatory basis of the Knott County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated September 22, 2005. The County Clerk's financial statement is prepared in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Knott County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. However, we noted a certain matter involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be a reportable condition. Reportable conditions involve matters coming to our attention relating to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of the internal control over financial reporting that, in our judgment, could adversely affect the entity's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statement. A reportable condition is described in the accompanying comments and recommendations.

- The County Clerk's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties

A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be reportable conditions and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all reportable conditions that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we believe the reportable condition described above is not a material weakness.



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And
On Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Knott County Clerk's financial statement for the year ended December 31, 2004, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matter that is required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards and which is described in the accompanying comments and recommendations.

- The County Clerk Should Require The Depository Institution To Pledge Or Provide Sufficient Collateral And Enter Into A Written Agreement To Protect Deposits

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management and the Kentucky Governor's Office for Local Development and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than the specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,



Crit Luallen
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
September 22, 2005

